

SERMON NOTES & STUDY GUIDE

Reflect. Discuss. Apply.

Sermon Series: "Everyday Faith" (Study of the Book of James)

Sermon Title: "Faith That Can't Remain Silent" (James 2:14-26)

Date: Sunday, September 14th

A 31-year-old young man named Charlie Kirk visited secular college campuses to host open forums. Students with very different worldviews lined up to challenge him, sometimes in harsh or mocking ways. He stayed calm, used Scripture more and more over time, and answered with patience and respect. Charlie Kirk's life shows his courage to stand for truth in a hostile setting and how real faith speaks with grace, even under pressure.

This message calls Christians to live a real, active faith. Faith is not just words or feelings. Real faith shows up in our actions, our courage to stand for truth, and our love for people in need. Using James 2:14-26, the sermon teaches that faith and works go together. We are saved by grace through faith, and that true faith produces a changed life.

Message Rewind:

1) Faith that is real shows in action

- James says faith without works is dead. Saying "I believe" is not enough if our life does not change.
- Scripture: James 2:14-17, James 2:26

2) We are saved by grace, but saved people do good works

• We do not earn salvation. God saves us by grace through faith. After that, we live out good works He prepared for us. Paul talked about the root (faith) and James talked about the fruit (works).

• Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-10

3) Faith stands with courage when it is hard

- Believers will face pushback. We are called to stand for Christ with respect, patience, and boldness.
- Scripture: 1 Corinthians 16:13, Matthew 5:10-12

4) Faith obeys when it costs us something

- Like the Brooklyn Bridge had to be tested to prove its strength, our faith is proven by what we do in real life. Abraham showed his faith by obeying God when tested. Abraham believed God and proved it by obeying on the mountain. Rahab believed and protected God's people
- Scripture: James 2:21-25, Genesis 22:1-14, Joshua 2:1-14

5) Faith loves people, not just ideas

- Real religion cares for the needy and keeps a clean life before God.
- Scripture: James 1:27, Galatians 5:6

Rewind and Reflect: Discussion Questions:

- Where do my actions already show my faith, and where do they not?
- What is one hard thing God is asking me to obey this week?
- When have I stayed quiet out of fear? How can I speak truth with grace next time?
- If someone watched my life for a week, what would they think I believe?

Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to give you courage to stand for Jesus in hard places.
- Ask for a pure heart and a life that matches your words.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you a specific good work to do this week.
- Pray for the hurting, the widows, the orphans, and those who are far from God.
- Pray for bold, but gentle speech that points people to Christ.

Memory Verse:

"So faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead." James 2:17 (NKJV)

Key Takeaway:

Faith that saves us also shapes us. Real faith moves our hands, opens our mouth, and loves our neighbor.